



NEWS RELEASE

WISCONSIN DISTRICT OFFICE

U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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Nomination Call for SBA's 2004 Small Business Person of the Year Awards

MILWAUKEE: – Since this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Small Business Administration, Wisconsin's small business week takes on special meaning for those of us who work for the small-business community. Help us celebrate Wisconsin's successful small business owners and advocates by sending us your nominations for SBA's 2004 Small Business Person of the Year Awards.

Small businesses are so important to our country, economically. They employ 51 percent of the private-sector workforce-that's 57 million Americans! They create two out of three net new jobs and produce 51% of the private sector output. Most important, perhaps, is what small business means to our country in terms of our *spirit*. Small business is the embodiment of the American Dream. Today's entrepreneurs offer the vision of success to the next generation. Whether they are born here or come here from another country, their contributions are an essential part of our American fabric.

It's so important that we acknowledge what America's small businesses have given back to this country; that's what Small Business Week is all about. Wisconsin's 2004 Small Business Week's celebration will take place the third week in May, 2004. Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States may submit nominations for the following awards:

Small Business Person of the Year
Small Business Exporter of the Year
Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Entrepreneurial Success Award
Minority Small Business Person of the Year
Emerging Small Business Person

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Small Business Advocates of the Year award categories are for those who promote small business, including volunteering time and services to small business interests and groups, advocating the cause of small business in the legislative process. Advocates may or may not be small business owners. Categories are:

Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year
Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year
Small Business Legal Assistance
Financial Services Advocate
Home Based Business Advocate of the Year
Women in Business Advocate of the Year
Small Business Journalist of the Year
Small Business Research Advocate

Nominations should be submitted no later than **October 3, 2003**. A short form can be obtained from Mary Trimmier at (414) 297-1093, 310 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 400, Milwaukee, WI 53203. From the one page nomination form, individuals will be asked to submit a more complete package highlighting the accomplishments of the business or individual.

*For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov. The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*

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